



City of Maple Ridge News Release

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Community Consultation and Planning for Fire Hall No. 4 in Albion Neighbourhood Begins

Maple Ridge, BC: On Monday, November 7, 2016 Maple Ridge Council received a report recommending that the preliminary work around the development of Fire Hall No. 4 and a co-located neighbourhood park move forward. The recommendations include proceeding with the architectural and site plans for Fire Hall No. 4, the development of a financial plan, the community consultation around the park site and beginning the work to prepare the rezoning application for the project. This item will come to Council on November 15, 2016 for approval.

The need for a potential site for a fire hall to serve this area of the community was identified in the 1990s and has been embedded in the long term planning of the City and the Albion neighbourhood. A property, located at 23863 112 Avenue, was purchased several years ago to ensure that a suitable location was available when the need to explore a proposed new fire hall and co-located park would be required. The site is approximately four hectares in size which is approximately the size of eight football fields.

“The Maple Ridge Fire Department uses a ‘composite model’ to deliver fire protection services. When additional resources are required beyond our duty career firefighters we place a call out to our paid-on-call firefighters to enable us to scale up to the appropriate response level,” said Maple Ridge Deputy Fire Chief Van Dop. “Many of our paid-on-call firefighters live in the rapidly growing Albion neighbourhood. This creates an amazing opportunity for us to address the demands of the fastest growing area of our community, improve our effectiveness in the delivery of fire protection services. We look forward to working with partners in Parks, Recreation & Culture to create a much needed community space for the neighbourhood and with the community and Council to fully explore this proposal.”

The concept for Fire Hall No. 4 also anticipates facilities that will allow the Maple Ridge Fire Department to enhance in-house training capabilities. The report outlined the need for training facilities to ensure that new recruits and existing firefighters are able to acquire the specific skills required to deal with fire and other emergencies. Our facility agreement with the Justice Institute will be ending soon and this component of the project will help defray costs related to outsourcing specialized training facilities for the fire department.

“Once we have Council approval, we will work with the community to develop a park design concept that meets the specific needs and aspirations of the neighbourhood,” said Valoree Richmond, Manager of Park Planning & Operations. “The co-location with Fire Hall No. 4 is a great opportunity to integrate some fun features that reflect the history and role of our fire department. We look forward to working with the Albion neighbourhood on this project.”

For more information about the proposed Fire Hall No. 4 and co-located park please contact Deputy Fire Chief Michael Van Dop by email at mvandop@mapleridge.ca or by phone at 604-476-3058